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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir / Madame:

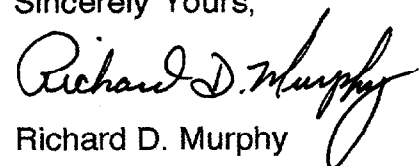
I am writing to you regarding "downed animals." I understand that last year the USDA announced a policy to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for federal programs, including the National School Lunch Program. Their decision to no longer accept ground beef from non-ambulatory cattle is to be applauded.

Below I have listed some reasons that I believe support an argument to prohibit the selling of sick and injured livestock, they are as follows:

- Downed animals pose a risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that suggest some downed animals maybe afflicted with some form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, a disease which has been linked to fatal human illness.
- Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no economic hardship.
- Industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing a market for downed animals will provide an incentive to prevent downed animals.
- Finally, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely. Downed animals are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. This inhumane process causes injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

In closing, I urge you to grant petition **#98P-0151/CP1** prohibiting the slaughter of "downed animals." Thank you for letting my voice on this matter be heard.

Sincerely Yours,


Richard D. Murphy

98P-0151

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